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AN

ADDRESS

TO THE

Oxfordſhire Addreſſors,

AND

All Others of the ſame Strain.

State Viri! Quæ Cauſa Viæ? Quivè eſtis in Armis. *Virg.*

Whither away, Sirs? why ſo faſt? and why are you up in Arms? Virgil.

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AN ADDRESS TO THE *Oxfordſhire* Addreſſors, AND All Others of the ſame Strain.

GENTLEMEN, (*Right Worſhipful, or by any other Epithets diſtinguiſhed*)

AMidſt the Croud of falſe *Ideas* and Speculative Dangers (not to ſay Refin'd Politicks) which have of late unhappily ruffl'd your Tempers, tho' uſually prone to the coldeſt Neglect on much more plauſible Occaſions, into a Fit of Enthuſiaſtic Loyalty; may it pleaſe you, upon the firſt Appearance of any cool Intervals, to permit Us, obſcure yet well-meaning *Britons*, true Friends to the Eſtabliſh'd Government both in *Church*

and *State*, and juſt Abhorrers of all *Factious*, *Schiſmatical*, *Popiſh* and *Republican* Principles, to expoſtulate a little with You about the *Cauſe*, *Matter* and *Ends* of ſuch Exorbitant and unſeaſonable *Addreſſing*.

I. *The Cauſe.* That a reſtleſs *Incendiary* and avow'd Diſturber of our *Iſrael*, whoſe inveterate Pique at the Act of *Indulgence* to *Proteſtant Diſſenters*, and the pious Efforts in the late Reign towards an happy Compoſure of Differences in Religion, had tranſported him into an incurable Frenzy, ſhould ſo eaſily propagate the pernicious Diſtemper among ſuch as pretend to be Well-wiſhers to the Peace of the *Church*, and our incomparable *Government*, is deſervedly aſtoniſhing. Theſe, GENTLEMEN, are the declar'd Topics on which his implacable Rage is principally grounded. For, tho' He was pleas'd, for greater Security upon Occaſion, after a long contradictory Jargon, to except the Former; yet You well know, that from his Firſt Declaration of War againſt the *Diſſenters* *, wherein he has painted 'em as Black as Hell, and affirm'd that the Government can never be ſafe whilſt thoſe *Vipers* are cheriſh'd in its Boſom, and that *'tis high time to hang out the Bloody Flag againſt 'em*; down to his Learned Diſcourſe at St. *Paul*'s, both They and their Friends have been always conſign'd over to the Bottom-

* *Political Union*, 1702. *from* pag. 50, *to* 59.

Bottomleſs Pit. You alſo know very well, GENTLEMEN, That the fine Flouriſh of a *Speech*, which you have ſo induſtriouſly diſpers'd into all Corners of the Nation to inflame the Populace, diſcover'd very little of the true Inſide of the *Man*, more than a continued giving Himſelf the Lie, tho' in ſuch a ſolemn Appeal to Divine Omniſcience, as would have made any antient *Moraliſt* tremble; and is as irreconcilable to the whole Strain of his Converſation and Scriblings, as Light to Darkneſs, or Fire to its moſt oppoſite Element. If a cool Head be eſteem'd none of the leaſt Qualifications in a *General*; this muſt needs be an Excellent Champion, whom you are ſo fondly liſted under. But it ſeems the awful Name of the *Church* is enough with you to cover any thing, and even in ſuch as are none of the beſt Ornaments to it: And perhaps, if you cou'd be ſo fair as to throw off the Mask, one of the ſtrongeſt Reaſons why ſo conſiderable a Part of Her *Majeſty's* Dutiful Subjects muſt be now trampled on, is their hearty Affection and cheerful Demeanor to the Government in all its Meaſures, and the proportionable Favours they have receiv'd from it. That this is no hard Suggeſtion, may be gather'd from a late Inſtance or two; *viz.* One, of a very zealous Champion in your Cauſe, who having profeſs'd Himſelf (as Dr. *Sach* —— very nicely terms it) a true genu-

genuine *Churchman*, publickly drank *Damnation to the Presbyterians*; and preſently after, being try'd, refus'd to beſtow the ſame *Anathema* on the *Roman Catholics*: And Another, as true a Churchman, who declar'd he had rather ſee the *Pope* himſelf govern in *England*, than the *Presbyterians*. God be prais'd, there is no Danger of either, unleſs you are reſolv'd to make it your ſelves: and we ſha'nt preſume to determine whether theſe Worthy Perſons ſpake the Senſe of their Party; for of that we allow you to be the beſt Judges. Yet, for ſhame, GENTLEMEN, if you have any Remains of Honour and Conſcience, leave off that impious Practice of branding with the Character of *Presbyterians* thoſe of all Ranks and Qualities, who have ever been moſt ſteddy to the true Intereſt both of *Church and State*; only becauſe they have more Charity than your ſelves, and a juſter Regard to the inviolable Laws of our happy Conſtitution. And whether *Theſe* might not with equal Reaſon and Juſtice retort on you the odious Title of *Papiſts*; ſince *They* have ever hug'd themſelves at your violent and weakning Methods, as giving up *Charters*, &c. and unanimouſly fallen in with you in all Matters of publick Conteſt, eſpecially the late *unhappy one*; is left to the Memory and Judgment of all unbiaſs'd Perſons. Notwithſtanding the ſpritely Air of your

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Addresses, what kind of Aversion you bear to the *Pretender*, and Zeal for an honourable *Peace*, is too plain to need any Commentary: since 'tis clearer than the Meridian Sun, that the only Hopes *He* can ever have of gaining the least Footing here, must be grounded on the high-strain'd Principles you have so hotly reviv'd; and consequently that the *Latter* can by nothing else be so directly and effectually either retarded or frustrated.

II. *The Matter.* This, whenever you resume so much Temper as to admit of impartial Reasoning, you must acknowledge to be insolent in the highest degree. For what greater Reflection can be cast on the whole *Legislature*? On the *Commons*, for their *Impeachment*: On the *Lords*, for Voting it made good: And on Her *Majesty*, for that Gracious and Excellent *Speech* in the Close: Whilst you stick not to suggest their *Dissolution*, as agreeable to the general Wishes of her Majesty's Loyal Subjects? and to tell Her by inevitable Consequence, That the present *Parliament* are at best Abettors of Factious, Schismatical, Popish, and Republican Principles? But pray, GENTLEMEN, why must your injurious Strains pass for the Sentiments of the Nation, any more than your Unanimity for the TACK; whilst Four Parts in Five throughout the Kingdom very justly

juſtly abhorr'd it? And why muſt Theſe *Patriots* be loaded with ſo much Dirt; unleſs becauſe they have moſt effectually enabled Her *Majeſty*, either to carry on, or put an Happy Period to the Preſent *War*; and appear'd moſt Zealous for the Support of Her Government on that Foundation which will eternally cut off the *Divine Right* of the *Pretender*, and Hopes of his *Adherents*? Your Anger at the juſt Cenſure they paſs'd on the *Doctor's* publiſhing his Blaſphemous Collection of what would probably have lain duſty in Corners, and never done the Hundredth part of the Miſchief, too plainly ſhews that you are acted by ſomething more than a juſt Senſe of Religion. Does ſuch Behaviour agree with the ſubmiſſive Temper you pretend to; and your darling Doctrine of *Paſſive Obedience*, by which you wheedled an Unhappy *Prince* to his Ruin, whom you had Addreſs'd a little before to the Skies, and then were the forwardeſt Men of the whole Nation in that *Reſiſtance* which thruſt him out of his Throne? Or rather is it not a Proof of what is aſſerted in your impudent and unparallel'd *Memorial*; wherein you thought fit for Security of the *Church* to hector the moſt indulgent *Head* and *Nurſing Mother* of it that ever ſway'd the *Britiſh* Scepter; and to let Her know, that if She did not govern according to your Schemes, your own Doctrine

was

was not to be depended on, but ſurly NATURE MIGHT BE PROVOK'D TO REBEL AGAINST PRINCIPLE? So long as the virulent Pens of *Nonjurors* and profeſs'd Enemies to the preſent *Government* and *Eſtabliſh'd Succeſſion* were ſuffer'd to poyſon the Nation in the moſt daring manner with weekly Invectives againſt Both, and ripening it apace for the late Deſcent from *France*, You were all as quiet as Lambs, and ſaw no Danger from that Quarter: Matters went on ſwimmingly to your Hearts content, and you ſuck'd in the Deadly Infection, tho' 'tis to be hop'd, undiſcern'd. But as ſoon as a *Gentleman* of a very Virtuous Character, ſound Learning, and known Affection to the *Eſtabliſh'd Church*, who had wrote with the moſt unanſwerable Clearneſs againſt Separation from it, and in the juſt Defence of *Epiſcopacy*, endeavour'd to ſtem that poyſonous Current, and cultivate in Her *Majeſty's* Subjects both a good Opinion and thankful Acknowledgment of their former Reſcue from the extremeſt Danger, of Her *Majeſty's* indiſputable Title and Glorious Reign, and the Happy Eſtabliſhment of the *Britiſh Throne* in the *Proteſtant Branch* of the *Royal Line*; you immediately cancel his former Merits, for which you had extol'd Him as a particular Favourite, paint Him in the blackeſt Colours, as if He had a Cloven Foot, or

ſomething worſe, and boldly impeach the United Senſe of your own *Repreſentatives* on his Behalf: Tho' He is ſtill the ſame Man; equally zealous for the *Church* and *Government*; has always expreſs'd the greateſt Deteſtation imaginable of Republican Principles, and every thing that tends thereto; anſwer'd all your empty Cavils with the greateſt Candor, unſhaken Temper, and Strength of Argument; and aſſerted not a Syllable more in the whole Controverſy than what is agreeable to the Antient *Laws* of our incomparable *Conſtitution*, and was not only prov'd at large by the Learned *Managers* at the late Memorable *Trial* of Dr. *Sach* —, but alſo fully aſſented to by His own *Counſel*. Into what Extreams are Men liable to be hurried, whilſt they are given up to the ſtrong Impulſe of a Furious and Ungovern'd Zeal!

III. *The Ends.* And here, notwithſtanding your fine, tho' inconſiſtent Pretences of the *Church*, *Monarchy*, *Prerogative*, *&c.* 'twould be no harſh Imputation, if theſe irregular Efforts were judg'd to have a ſideling Aſpect towards another Intereſt, *viz.* your Grand Idol of a ſtrict indefeaſable Divine Right, againſt any Legal Incapacities: Since ſome of you have found out the Art of taking *Oaths* of *Allegiance*, and *Abjuration* too, with a Mental,

tho'

tho' horrid, Explanation. But this being certainly known to God alone and your own Consciences, We forbear to press it, A clear and undeniable End, however, is to blacken and make odious to the unthinking Vulgar, the far more numerous Body of Her *Majesty's* most Faithful and *TRULY Loyal Subjects*, who have been steddily zealous for Her Person and Government, and, tho' somewhat short of your inflaming Warmth, the Brightest Ornaments of that *Church*, to whose Interests You have contributed little more than in empty Sounds. For These, under the despicable Character of *Low Church-men*, no Epithets have been thought bad enough by your Champion *Doctor* and his Adherents: Tho' under all such injurious Treatment they have appear'd much more *Passive* than your selves; and even now, from a more Dutiful Disposition towards their Glorious *Sovereign*, every Branch of whose Conduct they are in Love with, instead of teizing Her with groundless *Addresses* (which upon all proper Occasions they have left to Her Discretion for making Public) choose rather to sit silent, and let You reap the imaginary Advantages of your Bold Deportment towards Her. As to the Grand Clamor of a *Republican* Party; your selves are satisfied that 'tis a mere *Chimæra*, and some of You will not scruple to own it as a lucky Artifice to

exaſperate the Common People in order to ſerve a Turn, and conceal the Growth of another Party too real and numerous; *i. e.* the irreconcilable Enemies to the *Eſtabliſhed Succeſſion*, and, that peculiar Glory of Her *Majeſty's* moſt Auſpicious Reign, the Happy *National Union*. But if You, GENTLEMEN, or even that late *Convert* to Her *Majeſty's* Title, who firſt led up this odd kind of Dance, contrary to the Sentiments of the far greater Part in that very County for which He officiates, ſhould, becauſe you have rais'd a mighty Duſt, be ſo vain as to think your ſelves no leſs deſerving than thoſe *Gagling Centinels*, who in Extremity of real Danger gave a ſeaſonable Alarm at the very Critical Minute, and ſav'd the *Capitol* of Antient *Rome*; You may be aſſur'd, That the main Body of Honeſt *Britons* will recover their Senſes, and, maugre all your Impoſtures, be convinc'd, that the Dreadful *Giants* and Inchanted *Caſtles* which you have been Fighting with, are no other than downright *Windmills*, and thoſe too of your own making.

Vouchſafe to pardon, GENTLEMEN, the Tartneſs of this recriminating Freedom, extorted by your ſelves without any juſt Provocation given you. And having gain'd ſome Degree of Temper fit for cloſe and impartial Reaſoning, We beſeech

You,

You, by all that is truly Valuable and Sacred, to make a right Estimate of the many singular Blessings you have shar'd in from Her *Majesty's* Glorious Reign; and of the peculiar Excellency of our most Happy Constitution beyond all others in the Universe, in respect of the Honour, Safety, and inseparable Interests both of the *Sovereign* and *Subjects*. And, tho' there can be no Danger at present under the wise Conduct of so Gracious a QUEEN, who in the whole Course of Her Reign has had nothing so much at Heart as the Improvement of her People's Happiness, and Retrieving the Universal Rights of Mankind; Yet, for the sake of latest Posterity, when *She* shall be possest of a more Glorious Diadem, We again beseech You not to be so unnecessarily fond of Dividing the *Legislative* Power, and courting only a precarious Title to what You now enjoy on the happiest Foundations both of common Safety and indubitable Right. Rather *study to be quiet*, and move with a becoming Gratitude in your own respective Spheres; leaving those sublimer Matters of Her *Majesty's Title* and *Prerogative*, together with the *Liberties* and *Property* of the *Subject*, in the Hands of the *Government*: From whose United Wisdom, as these must needs be infinitely safer than from all your fruitless Solicitude; so it readily suggests the

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Unreaſonableneſs of your Cenſorious Reflections on that behalf. And to ſoften the Enſlaving Doctrine of *Paſſive Obedience*, which You have been the moſt Zealous for in Name, but have given much the leaſt Proof of in Practice, diſdain not to read and thoroughly digeſt the 8*th*, 11*th*, and 15*th* Pages * of that incomparable *Sermon* of the moſt Reverend the *Lord Archbiſhop of York*, preach'd before the *Houſe of Lords*, *Jan.* 30. 1$\frac{72}{73}$, and lately reprinted: Which if duly conſidered, is ſufficient to put an End to that unhappy Controverſy; having plainly prov'd the different Application of thoſe General Doctrines under Abſolute *Monarchies*, and One ſo happily temper'd as Ours; and that the *Standing Laws* of the reſpective *Civil Conſtitutions* are the true Meaſures both of *Active Obedience* and *Submiſſion*. In a word: Be content to be Happy, and learn both to know and duly prize it. Her *Majeſty* has hitherto been the Darling of Providence; and ſeems in a ſignal Manner pointed out for the Glorious Inſtrument of reſtoring an Univerſal *Peace* to the Languiſhing World. Let Her be ſo Happy at Home as to reap the Deſirable Fruits of her moſt Auſpicious Conduct: And whilſt We are engag'd in One common inſeparable Intereſt, and have the moſt immediate Share in the Honour of that Crowning Bliſs; let no Difference of Opinions, no unreaſonable Animoſities

* *The late ſmall Edition.*

mosities or groundless Surmises be an Allay either to our own Felicity, or that just Satisfaction which Her self may have in looking back on those Unparallel'd Difficulties she has so gloriously surmounted.

Given under our Common Seal, the United Arms *of* GREAT BRITAIN, *on the behalf of our selves, and all Other Her* MAJESTY'S *truly Loyal and most Dutiful* Subjects, *this 8th of* May, 1710. *in the Ninth Year of Her* Majesty's *Glorious and inestimable* Reign.

FINIS.

A Short Hiſtorical Account of the Contrivances and Conſpiracies of the Men of Dr. SACHEVEREL's Principles, in the late Reigns. Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-lane.*

390/8/24